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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: DECLAS 4/20/73

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG IN SECRETARY'S 1972 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19 FOLLOWS IN FULL. QUOTE

2. AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS WERE STILL ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING NEW COALITION GOVERNMENTS. IN BOTH CASES THE PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES PLAYED LITTLE OR NO ROLE. THE UNITED STATES IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE ALMOST NO POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, AND LUXEMBOURG. THIS
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UNUSUAL BUT HAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS STEMS IN LARGE MEASURE FROM OUR JOINT INTEREST IN THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY OF WESTERN EUROPE AND FROM THE IMPORTANCE WE ALL ATTACH TO COLLECTIVE DEFENSE THROUGH NATO.

3. ANOTHER FACTOR MINIMIZING BILATERAL STRESS IS THE DEDICATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE BENELUX UNION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT. WE HAVE A CONTINUING AND LIVELY EXCHANGE OF GOODS. THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE STRENUOUSLY SOUGHT INVESTMENTS BY AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS AND HAVE ASSURED FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR THESE FIRMS. BY THE SAME TOKEN THEIR INVESTMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES IS DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE IN RELATION TO THEIR SIZE AND RESOURCES.

4. U. S. SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANDED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOLLOWS VERY CLOSELY THE POLITICAL- ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES OF THE BENELUX COUNTRIES. BELGIUM SERVES AS THE HEAD-QUARTERS FOR NATO AND MOST OF THE EC INSTITUTIONS. THE DISTINGUISHED NETHERLANDER AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, JOSEPH LUNS, IS NOW SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO. OUR APPRECIATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CSCE AND MBFR HAS BEEN DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE DUTCH AND THE BELGIANS, BUT OUR INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS HAVE TENDED TO PRODUCE AN ULTIMATE MEETING OF THE MINDS. SECRETARY ROGERS' VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG IN MAY 1972 DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT.

5. IN FOREIGN TRADE THE BELGIUM- LUXEMBOURG ECONOMIC UNION IN 1971 BOUGHT 802 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS, A DECREASE OF NEARLY 20 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE NETHERLANDS IN 1971 BOUGHT OVER 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS OF U. S. GOODS, AN INCREASE OF 15 PERCENT FROM 1970. RESULTS FROM THE FIRST 10-11 MONTHS OF 1972 SHOW A 7.4 PERCENT DECLINE IN U. S. EXPORTS TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG AND A 9.5 PERCENT DECLINE IN EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS. DIRECT U. S. INVESTMENT IN THE THREE COUNTRIES HAS INCREASED, AS HAS THE NUMBER OF U. S. FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES.

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6. AS OF AUGUST 1972 AN AMERICAN- STAFFED U. S. INTERESTS SECTION BEGAN FUNCTIONING AS PART OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD, REPLACING THE BELGIAN STAFF WHICH HAD PERFORMED EFFECTIVELY IN OUR BEHALF, SOME- TIMES UNDER THE MOST ARDUOUS AND HAZARDOUS CON- DITIONS. FOLLOWING THE RESUMPTION OF U. S. RELATIONS WITH THE SUDAN IN JULY 1972, THE U. S. INTERESTS SECTION IN THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM WAS DISSOLVED. THE UNITED STATES IS APPRECIATIVE OF THE EFFORTS OF BOTH BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS IN REPRESENTING OUR INTERESTS UNDER OFTEN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. ROGERS

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